

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/627,321

Applicant(s)

SHEIDLER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Robert A Hopkins

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 7-24-03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7-24-03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 14 recite "a housing having an inlet portion, a filtration chamber downstream from the inlet portion, and an outlet portion downstream from the filtration portion; an inlet module removably secured within the housing , ... , an outlet module removably secured within the housing. Hawley(4407663) discloses a plurality of vortex separators, wherein the separators include an inlet module having filter tubes and an outlet module having discharge ducts , wherein the inlet module and outlet module are connected together by a tongue section(24). However, the connected inlet and outlet modules are connected to one end of a conventional bleeder duct(D). The modules are not removably secured within a housing. Koslow(4537608) discloses a housing(11) for supporting a plurality of vortex separators, however the separators do not include an inlet module removably secured within the housing and an outlet module removably secured within the housing. It would not have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a housing for securing the modules of Hawley because the combination of Hawley and Koslow do not suggest such a modification. Claims 2-13 depend on claim 1 and hence are also allowed. Claims 15-18 depend on claim 14 and hence are also allowed.

Claim 19 recites "a method for servicing a vortex-type filter assembly, ... , the method comprising: unlatching the latch; separating the flange from the filter housing;

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removing the inlet module from the filter housing; cleaning the inlet module, filtration chamber, and outlet module; inserting the inlet module back into the filter housing; mating the flange to the filter housing; latching the latch". Hawley(4407663) discloses a plurality of vortex separators, wherein the separators include an inlet module having filter tubes and an outlet module having discharge ducts , wherein the inlet module and outlet module are connected together by a tongue section(24). However, the connected inlet and outlet modules are connected to one end of a conventional bleeder duct(D). The modules are not removably secured within a housing. Koslow(4537608) discloses a housing(11) for supporting a plurality of vortex separators, however the separators do not include an inlet module removably secured within the housing and an outlet module removably secured within the housing. It would not have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide steps of unlatching the latch; separating the flange from the filter housing; removing the inlet module from the filter housing; cleaning the inlet module, filtration chamber, and outlet module; inserting the inlet module back into the filter housing; mating the flange to the filter housing; latching the latch because the combination of Hawley and Koslow do not suggest such a modification.

Claim 20 recites "a method for servicing a vortex-type filter assembly, ... , the method comprising: unlatching the latch; opening the access panel to reveal the filtration chamber; removing the inlet module and outlet module together from the housing; separating the inlet module and outlet module from one another; cleaning the inlet module, outlet module, and filtration chamber; inserting the outlet module into the

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corresponding inlet passage; placing the inlet module and outlet modules together into the housing; aligning the inlet module with the inlet module position feature; aligning the outlet module with the outlet module position feature; closing the access panel on the housing; latching the latch". Hawley(4407663) discloses a plurality of vortex separators, wherein the separators include an inlet module having filter tubes and an outlet module having discharge ducts , wherein the inlet module and outlet module are connected together by a tongue section(24). However, the connected inlet and outlet modules are connected to one end of a conventional bleeder duct(D). The modules are not removably secured within a housing. Koslow(4537608) discloses a housing(11) for supporting a plurality of vortex separators, however the separators do not include an inlet module removably secured within the housing and an outlet module removably secured within the housing. It would not have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide steps of unlatching the latch; opening the access panel to reveal the filtration chamber; removing the inlet module and outlet module together from the housing; separating the inlet module and outlet module from one another; cleaning the inlet module, outlet module, and filtration chamber; inserting the outlet module into the corresponding inlet passage; placing the inlet module and outlet modules together into the housing; aligning the inlet module with the inlet module position feature; aligning the outlet module with the outlet module position feature; closing the access panel on the housing; latching the latch because the combination of Hawley and Koslow do not suggest such a modification.

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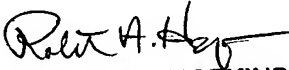
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert A Hopkins whose telephone number is 571-272-1159. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7am-4pm, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Rah
January 27, 2005


ROBERT A. HOPKINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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